

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 6-8, 10 and 11-13 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-3, 6 and 10 have been amended and claims 4, 5, 9, 14 and 15 have been cancelled without prejudice. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added.

I. CLAIM OBJECTIONS

Claims 9, 14 and 15 stand objected to for being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Accordingly, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the recitations of now cancelled claim 15, independent claim 6 has been amended to include the recitations of now cancelled claim 9, and independent claim 10 has been amended to include the recitations of now cancelled claim 14. Therefore, it is submitted that independent claims 1, 6 and 10, along with their respective depending claims (i.e., 4-5, 7-8 and 11-13, are now in condition for allowance.

II. 35 USC § 102 CLAIM REJECTION

Claims 1-8 and 10-13 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,734,568 to Borgendale et al.

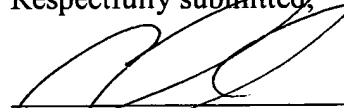
As previously mentioned, claims 4-5 have been cancelled without prejudice and in view of the above-mentioned amendments to independent claims 1, 6 and 10, all pending claims in this application are now in condition for allowance and this rejection is moot. Removal thereof is respectfully requested.

III. CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that pending claims 1-3, 6-8, 10 and 11-13 are now in a condition for allowance and

favorable action thereon is requested. If the Examiner should have any questions, he is kindly urged to contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



Christopher J. Capelli
Reg. No. 38,405
Attorney for Applicants
Telephone (203) 924-3849